

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05400 112238Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-10
PA-01 /053 W
-----093819 112242Z /64/15

O R 102225Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1545
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINSCO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 5400

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A S 2,3,4,AND5.)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BL
SUBJECT: EARLY BOLIVIAN ELECTION RETURNS GIVE PEREDA NARROW LEAD

1. SUMMARY: EARLY ELECTION RETURNS, ALMOST ALL FROM THE CITIES,
GIVE JUAN PEREDA, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE, A NARROW EDGE
OVER THE MAJOR OPPOSITION CANDIDATE HERNAN SILES ZUAZO WITH THE
OTHER OPPOSITION CANDIDATES TRAILING FAR BEHIND. WHILE
PEREDA IS SHOWING SOME STRENGTH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
VARIOUS OPPOSITION CANDIDATES ARE DEMONSTRATING
CONCENTRATTED REGIONAL STRENGTH WHICH COULD GAIN THEM
SUBSTANTIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE CONGRESS.
RESULTS ARE COMING IN VERY SLOWLY, HOWEVER, AND NO SIGNIFICANT
RETURNS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE THE
MAJORITY OF THE BOLIVIAN ELECTORATE RESIDES.
END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05400 112238Z

2. WITH ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE COUNTED
UNOFFICIAL RESULTS GIVE JUAN PEREDA OF THE UNP THE LEAD WITH
APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE. IN SECOND PLACE
IS HERNAN SILES ZUAZO OF THE UDP WITH 34 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY
VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO OF THE MRN-H/PRA WITH 14 PERCENT AND
REENE BERNAL OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH NEARLY
7 PERCENT. HOWEVER, THESE RESULTS ARE ALMOST ALL FROM THE

URBAN AREAS AND SIGNIFICANT RETURNS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE BOLIVIAN ELECTORATE RESIDE AND WHERE THE ELECTION WILL ULTIMATELY BE DECIDED HAVE NOT YET COME IN.

3. THE EARLY RETURNS WERE ANNOUNCED BY TWO RADIO STATIONS WHO HAD PLACED OBSERVERS IN THE KEY DEPARTMENTAL CAPITALS IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL COVERAGE DURING ELECTION DAY. HOWEVER, THIS SPECIAL ELECTION COVERAGE HAS SINCE ENDED AND WE HAVE BECOME DEPENDENT UPON THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION WHICH HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING ONLY EXTREMELY SLOWLY AND HAVE ADDED LITTLE TO THE UNOFFICIAL RESULTS ABOVE.

4. WHILE THE EARLY RETURNS INDICATE THAT JUAN PEREDA IS RUNNING WELL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE THREE PRINCIPLE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES ARE DEMONSTRATING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN REGIONAL STRENGTH. THUS PEREDA IS WINNING IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SANTA CRUZ, THE BENI, AND THE PANDO AND RUNNING SECOND IN ALL OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS. IN CONTRAST, HOWEVER, WHILE HERNAN SILES ZUAZO IS AHEAD IN THE LARGE DEPARTMENTS OF CHUQUISACA, POTOSI, AND VERY NARROWLY IN LA PAZ, HE IS RUNNING RELATIVELY POORLY IN ALL THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS. SIMILARLY RENE BERNAL IS RUNNING EITHER FIRST OR SECOND IN COCHABAMBA AND ORURO BUT IS NOT A FACTOR ELSEWHERE. VICTOR PAZ IS WINNING IN TARIJA, HIS HOME DEPARTMENT, AND RUNNING WELL IN THE BENI AND SANTA CRUZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05400 112238Z

(SECOND PLACE), BUT IS RUNNING POORLY IN SEVERAL OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

5. THIS REGIONAL STRENGTH COULD ENABLE PAZ, BERNAL AND SILES, DESPITE RELATIVELY LOW NATIONAL VOTE TOTALS, TO WIN ONE OR MORE DEPARTMENTS EACH, AND THUS CAPTURE THE MAJORITY OF THESE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS. THEREFORE, IF PEREDA FAILS TO WIN THE MAJORITY OF THE TOTAL POPULAR VOTE, HE COULD ALSO FAIL TO WIN A MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS, WHICH WOULD THEN ELECT THE NEW PRESIDENT. IN THIS CASE, PEREDA AND SILES WOULD BOTH ENTER INTO HECTIC COALITION NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAZ AND BERNAL, WHO WOULD BECOME THE KINGMAKERS.

BOEKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ05400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-1064
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780780/aaaacpel.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9383e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2071192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARLY BOLIVIAN ELECTION RETURNS GIVE PEREDA NARROW LEAD
TAGS: PINT, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9383e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014